

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 02801 120611Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 FAA-00 L-03 /035 W

----- 095157

R 120400Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8788

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS SANA 2801

NEA/ARP PASS TO WORLD AIRWAYS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, YE, SA

SUBJECT: WORLD AIRWAYS

1. AHMED ABDO SAID TOLD CHARGE AUGUST 10 THAT AGREEMENT WITH SUADIS ON JOINT VENTURE AIRLINE WOULD GO AHEAD PROMPTLY AS RESULT OF YAR AGREEMENT TO SAUDI LOAN (RATHER THAN GRANT) OF FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND YAR EXEMPTION OF DUTIES AND TAXES OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL WHO COME HERE TO WORK FOR AIRLINE. WITH THIS "BREAKTHROUGH" SAID EXPECTED SAUDI MONEY TO START FLOWING.

2. HE SAID THAT GEGHMAN AND ALI TUTF AL-THAWR (MIN ECON) HAD TRIED TO BLOCK THESE YEMENI CONCESSIONS BUT ASNAJ AND SAID HAD TOLD PRESIDENT THAT IT MADE SENSE FOR COMMERCIAL COMPANY TO ACCEPT LOAN RATHER THAN GRANT. PRESIDENT AGREED AND SAUDIS HAD BEEN NOTIFIED ON AUGUST 9.

3. HE ALSO SAID IT WAS TIME FOR WORLD TO TALK TO SAUDIS ABOUT MANAGEMENT CONTRACT. HE INSISTED -- AS ASNAJ HAD DONE IN THE PAST -- THAT WORLD SHOULD TAKE INITIATIVE IN THIS MATTER AND GO TO SAUDIS. SAID ALSO SAID THAT WORLD SHOULD PRESS ITS BID TO BUILD A HOTEL HERE BECAUSE PRESIDENT WAS EAGER TO SEE YEMEN AIRWAYS PROCEED ON THIS PROJECT.

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COMMENT. DON'T UNDERSTAND EXACTLY THE STATE OF PLAY HERE, AND
WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF EMBASSY JIDDA COULD INQUIRE INTO
SAUDI UNDERSTANDING OF MATTER. SAID IS, HOWEVER,
RELATIVE OF YEMEN AIRWAYS CHIEF SHAIK AND USALLY WELL-
INFORMED AND RELIABLE REPORTER. THUS, ALTHOUGH
PERSONAL RIVALRIES (ASNAJ/SAID VS. GEGHMAN/THAWR) ARE
INVOLVED, AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES ON HOW TO
PROCEED WITH JOINT VENTURE WITH SAUDIS, I WOULD REPEAT MY
PREVIOUS SUGGESTION THAT WORLD CONTACT SAUDIS ASAP TO
PRESS HARD FOR MANAGEMENT CONTRACT IN YAR.
RANSOM

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NNN

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